

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01 /099 W

-----022637 151212Z /15

P R 151022Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5106

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2414

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, ET, SO, US

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR ATTACKS "UNHOLY ARAB-WESTERN ALLIANCE"

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 14, ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR ATO MENGISTU DESTA, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ADDIS, BLASTED "ARAB-WESTERN ALLIANCE" IN MUCH THE SAME TERMS AS PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU DID A WHILE AGO(FULL TEXT

BE POUCHED).

2. BILL OF PARTICULARS IN AMBASSADOR'S SWEEPING DENUNCIATION AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE.

A. AMERICAN BASES IN WEST GERMANY, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN TO DELIVER TO SOMALIA THROUGH IRAN SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENTS, E.G., JET BOMBERS, TANKS, MISSILES, AND OTHER WEAPONS OF VARIOUS DESCRIPTIONS AND SIZES;

B. AMERICAN WAR SHIPS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN TO BE ALERTED
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TO STANDBY;

C. IRAN'S ARMY TO MOUNT ITS INTERVENTIONIST WAR FROM OMAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT;

D. EGYPT TO DESPATCH 5,000 SOLDIERS TO THE COMBAT ZONE;

E. IRAQ TO DESPATCH 1,500 SOLDIERS TO JOIN THE

ERITREAN BATTLE FRONT TO EASE ETHIOPIAN PRESSURE ON
SOMALIA;

F. SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO PROVIDE
SOMALIA WITH NEEDED FUNDS TO BUY RUSSIAN MADE WEAPONS
FROM EGYPT WHILE USA TO PROVIDE EGYPT REPLACEMENTS
WITH AMERICAN WEAPONS AND

G. SOMALIA TO SECURE FURTHER ARMS DELIVERY FROM
WESTERN EUROPE AND THE USA. UNQUOTE

3. AMBASSADOR DESTA CHARGED THAT CERTAIN QUARTERS
(READ ARABS AND WEST) WERE DELIBERATELY TRYING TO

CONFUSE ISSUE IN HORN BUT REALLY AT STAKE IS
ETHIOPIAN UNITY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND REVOLUTION
WHICH THREATENED BY REACTIONARY MOGADISCIO REGIME IN
COLLUSION WITH ARAB REACTIONARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
IMPERIALISM. DESTA CLAIMED "THIS IS CENTRAL ISSUE WHICH
PRESIDENT CARTER AND NUMBER OF HIS NATO ALLIES
CONVENIENTLY IGNORE". AMBASSADOR QUOTED MENGISTU'S
JANUARY 30 REMARK THAT "BY DECLARING THAT HE WAS HOPE-
FUL SOMALIA COULD SEEK PEACE, PRESIDENT CARTER
HAS ATTEMPTED TO PROJECT INVADING SOMALIA AS A PEACE
SEEKER AND INVADDED ETHIOPIA AS AGGRESSOR."

4. DESTA WENT ON TO COVER WELL TRODDEN GROUND THAT
ROOT CAUSE OF TROUBLE IN HORN WAS MOGADISCIO'S ATTEMPT
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TO FORCEFULLY CHANGED AFRICAN BOUNDARIES IN COMPLETE
DISREGARD TO OAU PRINCIPLES, ADDING THAT ETHIOPIA
WOULD NOT CEDE ONE INCH OF TERRITORY IN NORTH OR EAST.

5. HE CONTINUED THAT ONLY AN IMMEDIATE AND UNCON-
DITIONAL SOMALI WITHDRAWAL COULD RESTORE PEACE AND
STABILITY TO HORN AND THAT SUCH WITHDRAWAL "MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS ON NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES." HE ADDED THERE COULD BE NO NEGOTIATIONS
OR COMPROMISE ON SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
OF ETHIOPIA.

6. AMBASSADOR DESTA WARNED "ENEMY FORCES HAVE
THEREFORE OPTION TO SURRENDER PEACEFULLY...OR FACE
TOTAL ANNIHILATION."

7. PRESS FEBRUARY 15 PROMINENTLY FEATURED DESTA
PRESS CONFERENCE AND CARRIED AS WELL EGYPTIAN AMBASSA-
DOR MAZROUK'S DISCLAIMERS DELIVERED TO FEBRUARY 14
KENYAN PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON. MAZROUK DENIED EGYPT
PLANNING SEND TROOPS OR ARMS TO OGADEN AND STATED
HIS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED PEACE INITIATIVES BY SUDAN

AND NIGERIA ON BEHALF OF OAU.

8. COMMENT: DESTA'S BLAST WAS LATEST SHOT FIRED IN
LONG-STANDING BATTLE OF WORDS BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AND
SOMALIA EMBASSIES HERE. REMARKS APPEAR TAKEN
FROM CHAIRMAN MENGISTU'S JANUARY 30 CHARGES OF
WESTERN AND ARAB CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIS REGIME. GOK
TO DATE HAS BEEN TOLERANT OF THIS BATTLE OF WORDS
AND CERTAINLY WOULD NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO REIN IN

ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY GIVEN GOK'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR ADDIS
IN OGADEN FIGHTING.

9. WE HAVE STATED OUR POLICY IN HORN ON NUMEROUS
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OCCASIONS BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. WE SHALL
CONTINUE TO DO SO AND DO NOT INTEND TO RESPOND TO
DESTA'S STATEMENTS PER SE, DESPITE INACCURACIES,
UNLESS THERE IS ESCALATION, WHICH WE FEEL WOULD NEED TO
BE ANSWERED. FOR THIS CONTINGENCY, WE HAVE PREPARED
REMARKS DRAWING HEAVILY FROM SECRETARY'S PRESS
CONFERENCE OF FEBRUARY 10.
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Message Attributes

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